CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   An information processor comprising:

a computer; and

an external storage device detachably connected via a connector provided for the computer;

the computer comprising;

acceptance means for accepting an ejection request to the external storage device; and

encryption means for encrypting a predetermined data file stored in the external storage device if the ejection request has been accepted by the acceptance means.

2.   The information processor according to Claim 1, further comprising device stopping means for stopping access to the external storage device for which encryption of the predetermined data file by the encryption means has been completed.

3.   The information processor according to Claim 1, further comprising passphrase managing means for accepting and managing input of a passphrase used for encryption by the encryption means.

4.   The information processor according to Claim 1, wherein the encryption means is provided with multiple encryption engines used for encryption of the predetermined data file and dynamically changes the encryption engines to use them.

5.   The information processor according to Claim 1, wherein the connector is a PCMCIA connector.

6.   The information processor according to Claim 1, wherein the connector is a USB connector.

7.   An information processor comprising:

a computer; and

an external storage device detachably connected via a connector provided for the computer;

the computer comprising;

event detection means for detecting a mounting event issued when the external storage device is connected to the connector;

encrypted file detection means for checking whether or not an encrypted data file is stored in the external storage device which has been detected to be mounted by the event detection means; and

decryption means for decrypting the encrypted data file detected by the encrypted file detection means using a preset passphrase.

8.   The information processor according to Claim 7, wherein the decryption means requires input of a passphrase when the encrypted data file cannot be decrypted with the preset passphrase.

9.   The information processor according to Claim 7, wherein the connector is a PCMCIA connector.

10.   The information processor according to Claim 7, wherein the connector is a USB connector.

11.   An encryption processing system for providing encryption processing for a data file stored in an external storage device connected to a computer; the encryption processing system comprising:

acceptance means for accepting an ejection request to the external storage device connected to the computer in accordance with specifications specifying that software control should be performed, including processing to stop access to the device, when ejection is performed; and

encryption means for encrypting a predetermined data file stored in the external storage device if the ejection request has been accepted by the acceptance means.

12. The encryption processing system according to Claim 11, further comprising decryption means for detecting that the external storage device is connected to the computer and decrypting the encrypted data file stored in the external storage device.

13. The encryption processing system according to Claim 12, further comprising passphrase managing means for managing a passphrase used for encryption by the encryption means and decryption by the decryption means.

14. The encryption processing system according to claim 11, wherein said system is installed in a retail environment.

15. The encryption processing system according to claim 11, wherein said system is networked within a computer network.